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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,644	12/20/2000	Akira Adachi	1538.1006 (JDH)	4241

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EXAMINER

ABEBE, DANIEL DEMELASH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,644

Applicant(s)

ADACHI, AKIRA

Examiner

Daniel D Abebe

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-19 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takebayashi et al. (5,357,596).

As to claim 1, Takebayashi teaches a dialogue system for performing natural language dialogue with a user, comprising:

A predetermined number of slots (Fig.4) for items to be filled (Col.10, lines 35-41);

An analyzer (Fig.2, 21a) for analyzing a corresponding input regarding the item;
and

A response processor (Fig.12c; Fig.11, S92) for generating a response according to information filled in the slots (Fig.9).

As to claims 2-3, Takebayashi teaches a knowledgebase (sentence candidate table) (Fig.2, 22d; Fig.5) for use by the response generating and the speech understanding system.

As to claim 6, Takebayashi teaches a response information storage means for storing response information and means for generating the response information (Fig.1 and 11).

As to claim 7, Takebayashi teaches a speech recognition and synthesis system (abstract; Fig.25).

As to claim 8, Takebayashi teaches determining whether all of the information items have been acquired and where the response generated prompts the user to fill in the required slots (Fig.12D).

Claims 9-11, 14-19, 22-28 are analogous to the claims addressed above and are rejected for the foregoing reasons by Takebayashi.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 12, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takebayashi as applied to the claims above above, and further in view of Yokogawa (5,225,981).

As to claims 4, 12 and 20, Takebayashi teaches where parsing is performed on the sentences to generate semantic candidates (Fig.12). Takebayashi doesn't explicitly teach performing morpheme analysis on the sentence. However, Yokogawa teaches where an input sentence received is subjected to morphological analysis section (1016) and parsed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to include the

step of performing morpheme analysis in Takebayashi's system, in view of Yokogawa, for generating the semantic utterance representatives.

As to claims 5, 13 and 21 Official Notice is taken that updating knowledgebase (such as a dictionary) is well known in the art of speech recognition and it would be obvious to include in Takebayashi's system, for the purpose of keeping the knowledgebase/dictionary up to date with the items.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The rejection under 112 second paragraph is withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D Abebe whose telephone number is 703-308-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on monday-friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel Abebe, Primary Examiner, A.U. 2655

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Abebe', with a stylized, flowing script.

June 24, 2004